



Southeastern Workforce Focus

USDOL- Employment and Training Administration

Region 3 – Atlanta

Volume 1, Issue 4

October 2002

From the Regional Administrator's Desk Anna W. Goddard U.S. Department of Labor – ETA Region 3

As we start another year, I continue to appreciate the teamwork we have shared in working together to accomplish our shared goals and objectives. Through our combined efforts, the workforce system as envisioned in the Workforce Investment Act is in place in every State and designated local areas.

In the coming year we will all be engaged in the implementation of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002 which broadens eligibility to more worker groups, increases existing benefits available and provides tax credits for health insurance coverage assistance.

We also will look forward to legislative action regarding the administration's ES/UI Reform legislation and WIA reauthorization. With the WIA legislation, we hope to build on the six identified WIA Reauthorization principles.

The Assistant Secretary has reiterated the following five goals for us:

To recognize the workforce investment system as an economic development system with social benefits and not as a social services system with economic benefits.

To create a demand-driven system that helps employers find the workers they need as quickly as possible.

To increase flexibility at the state and local level so you can better meet the unique needs that face your state and local areas.

To increase integration of the One-Stop Career Center system.

To increase accountability so that our investors (Congress and taxpayers) continue to have faith in us and so we can make the case to them and the American public that we are a good investment and worthy of a place in the center of the President's economic agenda.

One of our top priorities for this year is to continue providing you with high quality technical assistance and better customer service. As I indicated to you in our last issue, the Regional Customer Feedback Team developed a web-based feedback form that is available to you on our website at www.doleta.gov/regions/reg03. Our website has been redesigned to meet national standards and we invite you to visit often.

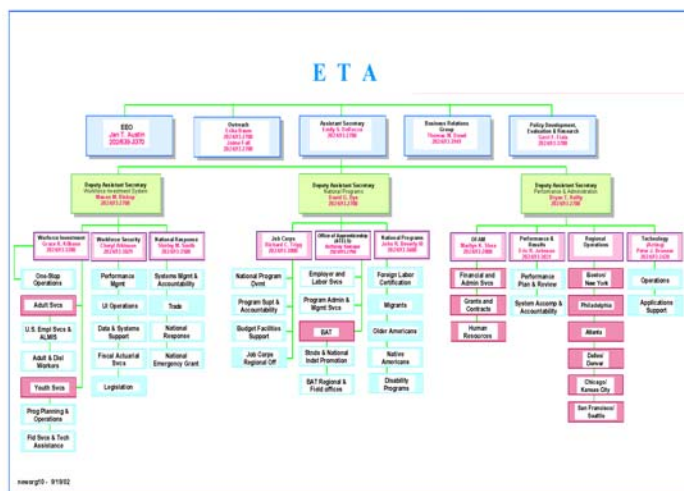
Your commitment to meeting the needs of employers and jobseekers is evident in your efforts with rapid response to company layoffs in your State and by the provision of unemployment benefits as well as trade benefits to those who need the assistance. The successful programs that you manage evidence the excellent service that you provide to those who are seeking employment and training.

I look forward to our continued joint efforts to respond to employers and jobseekers through the local workforce systems.



ETA National Office Restructuring

In our continuing efforts to provide better services to our State and local partners, ETA has restructured the national office organization. There are three Deputy Assistant Secretaries (Workforce System, National Programs and Performance & Administration) below the Assistant Secretary level.



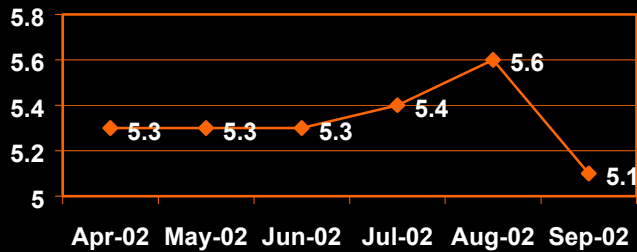
An important change is the creation of three new offices: Performance Management, the Office of Workforce Investment and the Business Relations Group.

It is our hope that this realignment makes the Employment and Training Administration even more effective, efficient and responsive to the 21st Century workforce needs.

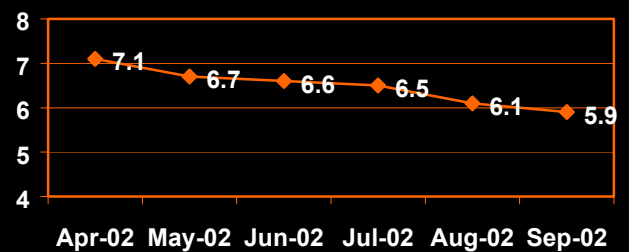


Labor Market Information

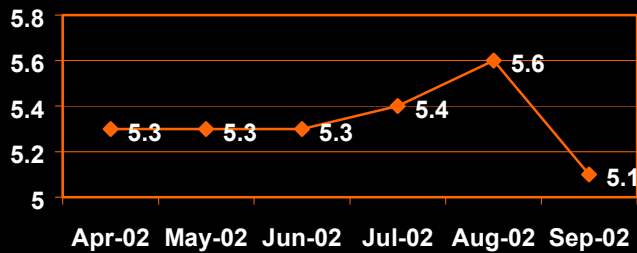
Florida Total Unemployment Rate



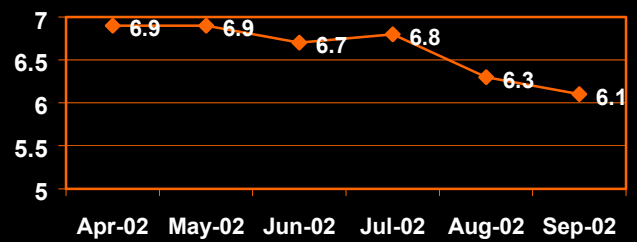
Mississippi Total Unemployment Rate



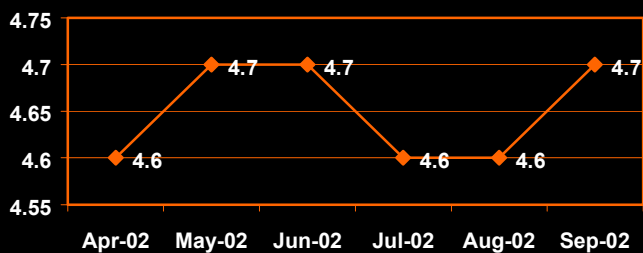
Florida Total Unemployment Rate



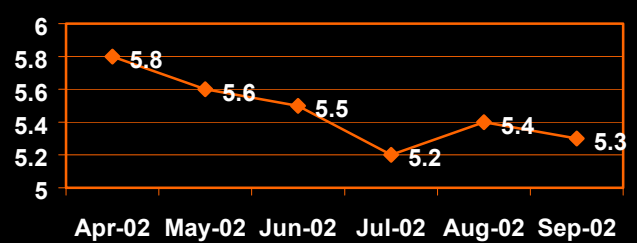
North Carolina Total Unemployment Rate



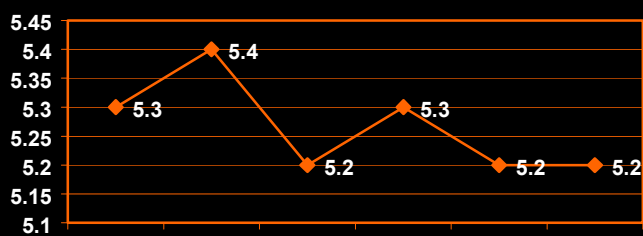
Georgia Total Unemployment Rate



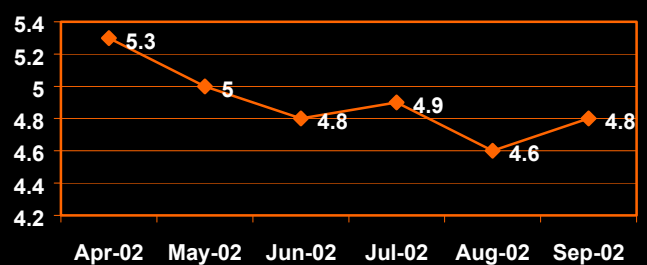
South Carolina Total Unemployment Rate



Kentucky Total Unemployment Rate



Tennessee Total Unemployment Rate



Region 3 Layoff Update – September 2002

Alabama – The State had approximately 357 announced layoffs from six companies. Three of the six layoffs were for closures. The largest layoff announcement was Consolidated Freightways with 102 total layoffs in the following cities: Birmingham (26), Decatur (23), Dothan (9), Gadsden (9), Mobile (20), and Montgomery (15). Boise Paper Solutions/Boise Cascade Corporation in Jackson, Alabama, submitted a WARN notice for a “temporary” layoff of 78 workers to be effective December 2, 2002. The notice indicated that the “shutdown” is intended to last for two months, but that if the company does not see a “dramatic improvement in the product market,” the shutdown will be extended or the plant may be closed.

Florida – The State of Florida received seven WARN notifications affecting 587 employees. The two largest companies affected are Consolidated Freightways, Orlando, Florida, affecting 150 employees and Ticketmaster, Orlando, Florida, affecting 112 employees.

Georgia - The State reported that they received notice of eight layoffs from seven employers affecting 1,952 employees. The two largest companies affected are Consolidated Freightways, Ellenwood, Georgia, affecting 626 employees and Durango Paper, St. Marys, Georgia, affecting 903 employees.

Kentucky - The State received four WARN notifications and 10 non-WARN notices affecting 937 employees. The notices include a total of nine closures and five layoffs. The largest closures were DuPont Dow Elastomers, LLC, located in Louisville, Kentucky, affecting 285 workers who are represented by the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union and the Peabody Coal Company – Camp No. 11 Mine located in Morganfield, Kentucky, affecting 268 workers represented by the United Mine Workers of America with Dennis R. Wallace as the Local Union President. Eagle Carriers, Ltd., located in Somerset closed affecting 350 employees in the trucking industry and Jacobson Store, Inc., located in Louisville closed affecting 200 employees in the retail industry. There were 688 workers actually laid off during September from notifications received from previous months. During PY 01 the State held 85 employer meetings and 169 employee group orientations.

Mississippi – The State received 13 WARN and layoff/closure notifications during September 2002, affecting 670 employees. The most significant closures were the River Oaks Furniture in Baldwin, impacting 169 employees; the Presto Manufacturing Company in Jackson, impacting 145 employees; and the Atlas Door Clopay Building Products in Hernando, impacting 118 employees. Rapid response activities were provided to the employees. The State conducted 147 rapid response visits during PY 01.

North Carolina – The State received WARN notices from seven companies for 1,662 layoffs. Five of the seven notices were for closures. In addition, Consolidated Freightways in Charlotte had a closure with 400 layoffs. Several of the large layoff notices are: Thomasville Furniture Industries in Thomasville, 425; Lockheed Martin Information in Durham, 420; and CC Air Inc., d/b/a US Airways Express in Charlotte, 309.

South Carolina - The State received five WARN notifications and eight non-WARN notifications in September 2002 affecting 668 employees. There were seven closures and four layoffs from 11 employers. Two of the largest companies were Goodrich (190) located in Hodges, South Carolina, and CINTAS Corp (aka “RUS”) (85) located in Rock Hill, SC. During PY 01 the State held 104 employer meetings and 272 employee group orientations. The State’s website is: http://www.sces.org/business/rapid_response/

Tennessee - Nine of the 13 LWIAs reported 14 closures and four layoffs from 18 companies affecting 3,089 workers. Three of the largest companies reporting were Levi Strauss and Company located in Anderson County affecting 880 in the clothing industry; WorldCom, Inc., located in Shelby County affecting 567; and Consolidated Freightways Corporation located in Shelby County affecting 559 employees in the trucking industry. The State of Tennessee has conducted 288 Rapid Response activities from July 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002

New Website Unveiled by Secretary Chao

Secretary Elaine Chao unveiled DisabilityInfo.gov, a new website for people with disabilities, Wednesday at the New Freedom Initiative Celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This site, the first of its kind, will provide individuals with one-stop access to government disability information and resources as well as updates on the President's [New Freedom Initiative](http://NewFreedomInitiative.gov).



Youth Page

Office of Youth Services and Job Corps

Yo! You Can Succeed

You could see the pride in Mary Ann Jackson's eyes as her son, Quincy, walked down the promenade with 30 other members of the honor court at the first Yo! Memphis Presentation Ball. "It's been such a lesson (having the program)," said Mary Ann Jackson. Quincy received his G.E.D. through Yo! Memphis and will go on to Southwest Tennessee Community College this fall. "The staff here encouraged him so much. I thank God he's gotten this far, and I just want to push him further."

Dr. Marie Milam, executive director of Yo! Memphis, said the city-operated program tries to "counteract the unhealthy situations in the community with positive reinforcements," such as college tuition assistance, internships, vocational training and competitive dance teams. The ball, which recognized some of the achievements of young people in the organization, was held at the Memphis Botanic Garden. The honor court, chosen by program staff, were students who had excelled in a particular area.

"We wanted to give them a chance to have this experience and show them that they are valued and worthy of recognition, and they did a wonderful job," said Milam. "We'll probably continue this every year," said Milam.

Despite the difficulty she was having walking in her gown, honor court member Shameka Hawes said the ball was great. "I kept tripping over my dress, but I liked it. I had never been in anything like this," she said.

Highlights of the evening included a promenade and waltz by the honor court, remarks by Mayor Willie Herenton and selections from the Yo! Memphis Choir. When JoHelen Hunt's escort couldn't make it to the ball, Yo! Memphis staff member Roosevelt Richardson Jr., stepped in from the audience to escort her down the promenade and participated in the rest of the program with her. "I was sad because I was the only one without an escort, then he came up to walk me down the aisle," Hunt said. Richardson said he didn't think twice about joining Hunt. "I just did what I had to do. I didn't want to see her singled out."

Also in attendance were Brian Kelly, Link Generette IV, Kelli Gunn, Atasa Fleming, Betty Barnes, Natosha Barnes, Takecha Barnes, Joyce Washington, James Hunter, Brittany Westmoreland, Lindsey Sanders, Jocelyn Titus, Shericka Blair, Angela Saulsberry, Patrice Dixon, Rodney Cohn, Fenton and Lisa Wright, LaTonya Dixon, Ernest Allen, Rev. Herbert and Gwen Jackson and their children Hillary and Harlan.

Youth Program Facts....

Going Home: Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative

The DOL/ETA is one of several federal partners with the U.S. Department of Justice in the **Going Home: Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative**. The Reentry Initiative is a comprehensive effort that addresses both juvenile and adult populations, ages 14-35, of serious, high-risk offenders. It provides funding to state and local governmental agencies to develop, implement, enhance, and evaluate reentry strategies that will ensure the safety of the community and the reduction of serious, violent crime.

One Church Ten Families Faith-based Initiative (OCTF)

The Department of Labor is currently funding five pilot sites that are building partnerships between the faith community and juvenile justice system to promote youth development. Funds are awarded directly to the non-profit arm of local churches. Through the project, juvenile and family court judges, when appropriate, refer eligible youth offenders and their families to the non-profit arm of the OCTF participating church for program services. Services include one-on-one mentoring for youth; parental mentoring; life skills enhancement opportunities; job training and career development opportunities; academic enrichment opportunities; peer networking through youth ministries; and supportive services.

Rewarding Youth Achievement (RYA)

The Department of Labor's PY 2000 Youth Opportunity appropriation included \$20 million for a Rewarding Youth Achievement (RYA) initiative. RYA provides positive incentives to youth by offering summer jobs, career assessment and counseling, mentoring, summer math and science classes, tutoring and college bound experiences to high school students who meet academic achievement and attendance standards. The goal of RYA is to increase high school graduation and college enrollment rates for the youth who participate. Participants include high school and middle school students, 14-21, who attend schools that serve the Youth Opportunity area. Currently, DOL/ETA is funding 22 RYA sites.

Youth Development Practitioner Apprenticeship (YDPA) Initiative

The YDPA initiative targets professionals who work or will work in youth programs delivering services to young people as front-line staff. YDPA provides an occupational title of Youth Development Practitioner for youth workers and identifies competencies for the profession, on-the-job training and related instruction. DOL awarded [13 Youth Development Practitioner Implementation Grants](#) on June 30, 2001.



Conference Reports

Delta Association of Rural Initiatives Conference

The Delta Association of Rural Initiatives (DARI) annual conference was held in Myrtle Beach August 6-7. DARI participants expressed great concern over Farmworker Program (section 167) funding. Regional office staff conducted a meeting of State Monitor Advocates during the conference. Discussed during the meeting were current events in ETA, MSFW issues and concerns, state reports and other matters. Planning for the Region 3 Agricultural Partnership Conference to be held January 27-29, 2003, was also part of the agenda.

2002 Regional Economic Development Conference

The Regional Administrator participated in the Regional Economic Development Conference that was sponsored by the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The conference was held in Jacksonville, Florida, on July 29 - August 1, 2002. Based on the "Building Bridges, Locally and Globally" theme, an array of workshops centered on four tracks: EDA, Retirement and Tourism as Economic Development Engines, Cluster-Based Economic Development, International Trade, Audits and Business Liability and E-Commerce. Special presentations were made by the Assistant Secretary for Policy and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for EDA. Topics covered during the conference included: the Economic Outlook, Tourism and Economic Development, Clusters of Innovation: Regional Foundations of U.S. Competitiveness, Faith-Based Economic Development and Workforce Development Issues of Today.

Atlanta Economic Opportunity Meeting

Regional office staff participated in a meeting co-sponsored by IRS & United Way to discuss opportunities to increase Atlanta families' economic security through community-based partnerships. The meeting focused on the earned income tax credit (EITC) outreach initiatives, financial literacy training, financial services and asset development strategies, including MoneySmart. The meeting was held at the Latin American Association in an attempt to expand participation of the Hispanic community in these initiatives.

Region 3 Dislocated Worker Coordinator Roundtable

The Dislocated Worker (DW) Roundtable was held in Atlanta on September 10-12 with all State DW coordinators, State Rapid Response (RR) staff and one LWIA Director in attendance. The Regional Administrator and OAS Director provided USDOL updates with particular emphasis on the need and importance of providing rapid response information to the system in "real time." The roundtable was an opportunity to share best practices, describe upcoming DW workplan activities and discuss leveraging of other funds to support DW activities. Each State provided detailed information on current DW/RR activities. Ms. Isabel Danley (OFAM) and Ms. Connie Carter (OWS) of the national office provided updates on NEG reporting and the new Trade legislation. The BLS regional economist discussed the Region 3 economic outlook. Participant evaluations indicated the roundtable was beneficial to all.

ETA Region 3 Annual Employer Committee Meeting

Regional office staff participated in the Georgia Department of Labor's Employer Committee Annual Conference in Savannah that was held on September 8-10. Discussions centered on economic development, employer outreach, national business partnerships and the Business Relations Group. Over 200 employers attended this conference representing all of the State's local workforce areas and most of its LWIBs. GDOL invited each of the Region 3 States to send their employer committee representatives, and Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and South Carolina participated along with Pennsylvania from outside the region.

8th Annual Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Conference

Regional office staff conducted a workshop Thursday, September 19, 2002, at the 8th Annual Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Conference sponsored by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. The workshop focused on increasing youth employability and employment. Insights were shared on the 36 Youth Opportunity grantees who engage young people, both in and out of school, in a range of comprehensive and long-term youth development activities that help them stay in school, attend college, enter skills training, or find employment. Feedback obtained from the workshop was positive and it proved beneficial for conference attendees.

South Carolina Workforce Development Symposium

"A Forum to Build a Collaborative Partnership" was held on September 24, 2002, in Columbia. The 44 attendees included members of the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) Executive Committee, Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB) Chairs/Vice Chairs, WIA Administrators, and regional office and State staff. This forum was the result of strong collaboration between the State and regional office staff. The OAS Regional Director provided comments on the roles/responsibilities of the SWIB and LWIB and linking WIA with economic development. The highlight of the forum was hearing LWIB perspectives from all 12 local areas. Reports from three SWIB committees were provided. There were three breakout sessions with the LWIB Chairs, LWIB/SWIB Vice Chairs, and WIA Administrators. The regional office staff facilitated the sessions with report-outs by the locals. The evaluations were excellent and indicated that the attendees want more forums and more interactive sessions.

Faith- and Community-Based Initiative Quarterly Update

As we end the year, the Faith- and Community-Based Initiative has been a most successful one in our region. Through our combined efforts, we reached over 1,300 FBOs and CBOs. Seventy groups from our region submitted an SGA and, of those, eight were awarded grants. We continue to urge our State and local partners to reach out to these organizations when planning community services strategies.

Faith-Based Coalition Meeting in Atlanta

The Church of Greater Works in Atlanta, Georgia, held a brainstorming session for members of the coalition and began planning for an FBO Conference for August 17, 2002.

Regional Faith- and Community-Based Task Force Meeting

On July 8, 2002, regional office staff participated in the fourth Federal Faith- and Community-Based Task Force meeting. All federal partners were on hand for this meeting as well as Dr. Donna Elam from the Southeastern Equity Center, Thonotossa, Florida

Women In Skilled Trades (WIST)

The quarterly DOL WIST Committee Meeting was held on July 10, 2002. OFCCP, Women's Bureau, and ETA representatives were in attendance. Handouts on One-Stops and Faith-Based and Grassroots Community grants were discussed.

The Women's Bureau is developing a strategy on how to tie into the One-Stops.

Birmingham, Alabama Faith-Based Event

The regional faith-based team leader participated in a faith-based event in Birmingham, Alabama, on July 25. The event was co-sponsored by the U. S. Department of Education as a part of its "No Child Left Behind" initiative, the Birmingham City Schools, the City of Birmingham, and the Governor's office. The members of the Region 3 Task Force for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives made brief presentations describing their respective agency's faith-based initiative and conducted two workshops each to talk about grant activity and technical assistance resources. There were 450 people in attendance.

St. Petersburg, Florida Faith-Based Event

The regional FBO/CBO team leader participated in a faith-based event in St. Petersburg, Florida. The event was co-sponsored by the U. S. Department of Education, as a part of its "No Child Left Behind" initiative, and the University of South Florida. Partners representing the Regional Task Force for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives made brief presentations describing their agency's faith-based initiative and conducted two workshops each to talk about grant activity and technical assistance resources. There were 250 people in attendance.

Regional Faith-Based Forums

On September 4, 2002, Congresswoman Eva Clayton of North Carolina will sponsor a faith-based forum in Weldon, North Carolina. The Region 3 Federal Faith-based partners made a presentation on their respective agencies' efforts in the faith-based initiatives.

On October 12, 2002, Congressman Sanford Bishop of Georgia will sponsor a faith-based forum in Albany, Georgia. The Region 3 Federal Faith-based partners will make a presentation on their respective agencies' efforts in the faith-based initiatives.

Faith-Based Forum – Columbia, South Carolina

The regional members of the Federal Task Force for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (DOL, HHS, ED, HUD, DOJ) interacted with faith-based operators on the federal faith-based initiatives. Each member of the task force provided an overview of the initiative within his/her specific agency and conducted two workshops each on details of the initiative, current RFPs, and any general guidelines for writing grants and working with the federal government. The forum that was sponsored by the Department of Education was held on August 26-27, 2002.

State Corner – *Featuring the State of Tennessee*



Center for Community Career Education, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga,

with funding from the Southeast Tennessee Workforce Investment Board and Area Youth Council, partnered with the Front Porch Alliance, Franklin Covey Company and the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce to conduct a Y.E.S. (Youth Enrichment Services) Business Summer Camp during the summer of 2002.

Students used the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens book to learn how to develop good habits that apply to school, life and work. Students attended English, math and Life Skills classes. The camp was conducted as a business camp to give the students an opportunity to understand the world of work. Their stipends were directly tied to performance. Students developed two products during this summer camp and will return to school and operate a school-based enterprise. Their products were a selection of essays (using the 7 habits) and a video. Students will package the product and sell to youth-serving agencies, churches and schools. The revenue from the sale of the product will be placed in a restricted account and students will determine the use of the funds.

This celebration culminated 95 hours of training that included Sean Covey's, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens."

1. Be proactive
2. Begin with the End in Mind
3. Put First Things First
4. Think Win-Win
5. Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood
6. Synergize
7. Sharpen the Saw

It Works!

The students completed the 2002 summer business camp with a celebration/graduation event at The Chattanooga hotel. Students designed and facilitated the graduation program by reciting poetry, singing, giving 7 Habit testimonials, introducing speakers and introducing the sale of the product. Fifty students completed the 2002 summer camp and were presented certificates from the Y.E.S program and Franklin Covey.

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State Corner – *Featuring the State of Mississippi*



MESC Team Helps Build Nissan Plant

They don't wear hard hats or operate heavy machinery, but the five-woman Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MESC) Nissan Project team is playing a vital role in building the new \$1.4 billion Nissan plant under construction near Canton. The team is processing applications and resumes for two of the most important job classifications at the plant, production technicians who will build the vehicles and maintenance mechanics who will set up the plant's machinery and service it.

The MESC Nissan Project team was organized in January of 2001 and since then has handled the largest recruitment effort in the agency's history. The team has received and processed a staggering 48,000 applications for the production technician job and more than 6,000 resumes for the maintenance mechanics position.

Next spring the plant will open employing 4,000 workers. The workers will build full-size pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles for Nissan and Infinity and the next generation Nissan Quest minivan.

But even before opening, another expansion of the plant has been announced. In June Nissan said that it will expand production of its fast-selling Altima sedan to the Mississippi plant in 2004 and that expansion will add another 1,300 jobs. The MESC team will be involved in recruiting for the additional jobs.



Upcoming Events in Region 3

- ★ **November 13-15, 2002 – Region 3
SWA Wagner-Peyser Directors Meeting
– Perdido Beach, Alabama**
- ★ **November 21-22, 2002 – 4th Annual
Georgia State Workforce Conference –
Athens, Georgia**
- ★ **December 9-11, 2002 – Region 3
Workforce Academy – St. Petersburg
Beach, Florida**
- ★ **January 15-17, 2003 – Region 3 WIA
Youth Learning Exchange –
Jacksonville, Florida**
- ★ **January 27-29, 2002 – Region 3
Southeastern Agricultural Partnership
Conference**
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quarterly publication that provided
information on workforce activities.**

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- **An upcoming event you would like
published?**
- **An idea for an article?**
- **Comments or suggestions on our
newsletter?**

**Please submit them to:
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Internet Resources

DOL	www.dol.gov
ETA	www.doleta.gov
BLS	www.bls.gov
America's Career InfoNet (LMI source)	www.acinet.gov
Care Careers	www.carecareers.net
Dislocated Workers	www.doleta.gov/layoff
Employers Services	www.doleta.gov/employ.asp
Audio Conference Series on Employment Policy	www.its.uiowa.edu/law
NASWA Tools of the Trade (resources for workforce development professionals)	www.workforcetools.org

